

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO NIACT IMMEDIAATE
INFO ACONSUL HONG KONG 6629
AMEMBASS MOSCOW
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1483

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

AMEMB FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI'S PARTY AND AMBASSADODR WOODCOCK

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PEPR SOPN US CH OVIP (ZRBEZINSKI, BZIGNIEW)

SUBJ: UPI EDITORS: PUBLISHERS MEETING WITH TENG HSIAO PING

REF: STATE 122028(NOTAL)

1. UPI EDITORS/PUBLISHERS DELEGATION MET WITH PRC PARTY
VICE CHAIRMAN/STATE COUNCIL VIVCE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING
ON MORNING OF MAY 19. UPI BOARD EDITOR-IN-CHIEF H.L. STEVENSON
PROVIDED READOUT TO USLO ON HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING (WHICH HE
HAS FILED BY TELEPHONE TO PAPERS IN US) AND OTHER DELEGATION
MEMBERS FILLED IN DETAILS AND ATMOSHPERIS AS FOLLOWS:

2. US AND TAIWAN. TENG TOOK THE STANDARD PRC POSITION ON
THE TAIWAN QUESTION, SIMPLY STATING THE THREE PRC CONDITIONS AND
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REFUSING TO BE DRAWN INTO A DISCUSSION OF CONTEMPLATED
PRC POST-NORMALIZATION POICY VIS-A-VIS TAIWAN. HE DISMISSED
ALL QUESTIONS OF THIS GENRE WITH THE USUAL STATEMENT THAT
MANNER AND TIMING OF LIBERATION OF TAIWAN ARE INTERNAL AFFAIRS
OF THE PRC. TENG DID NOT PRESENT TAIWAN AS A SERIOUS ISSUE
BETWEEN THE US AND THE PRC.

3. US AND GLOBAL POLITICAL REANA. TENG EXPECTELY PORTRAYED THE US AS A DECLINING SUPERPOWER, HESITANT ABOUT TAKING THE INITIATIVE TO COUNTER SOVIET EXPANSIONISM, AND GUILTY OF A POLICY OF "BENIGN NEGLECT" TOWARD SOVIET AND CUBAN ACTIONS IN AFRICA. TENG CITED ZAIRE AS THE MOST RECENT INSTANCE OF SOVIET/CUBAN INTERFERENCE IN AFRICA, BUT FAILED TO COMMENT ON THE US POSTURE THERE. AT ONE POINT THE DELEGATION MEMBERS INTERPRETED TENG'S REMARKS TO IMPLY THAT THE PRC FAVORED SOME TYPE OF US RETALIATORY MOVE AGAINST CUBA AND IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. THIS REMARK WAS NOT AMPLIFIED, HOWEVER, AND TENG WITHDREW FROM FURTHER QUESTIONING IN JOCULAR MANNER.

4. POSSIBILITY OF PRC VISIT BY PRESIDENT CARTER. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY DELEGATION MEMBERS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A PRE-NORMALIZATION VISIT TO CHINA BY PRESIDENT CARTER, TENG INDICATED THAT THE PRC WOULD WELCOME PRESIDENT CARTER NO MATTER WHAT HE WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS OR DECIDE. (COMMENT: ALTHOUGH USLO WAS NOT REPRESENTED AT THE MEETING AND HAS NOT HAD ACCESS TO NOTES TAKEN BY DELEGATION MEMBERS, TENG'S REMARK -- IF REPORTED ACCURATELY -- IS REMINISCENT OF THE OPEN-ENDED INVITATIONS EXTENDED TO PRESIDENT NIXON THROUGH EDGAR SNOW AND TO PRESIDENT FORD).

5. PRC VIEWS OF AMERICAN OFFICIALS. DELEGATION MEMBERS
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COMMENTED THAT TENG VOLUNTEERED A NEGATIVE APPRAISAL OF BOTH VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE AND SECRETARY VANCE. THIS ELEMENT OF TENG'S MONOLGUE WILL BE ADDRESSED IN EDITOR-IN-CHIEF STEVENSON'S ACCOUNT OF MEETING. TENG APPARENTLY SIDESTEPPED ALL QUESTIONS CONCERNING DR BRZEZINSK AND HIS VISIT -- ALTHOUGH DELEGATION MEMBERS WILL BE FILLING THEIR PIECES AS STAGE-SETTERS FOR THE VISIT.

6. TENG ON THE USSR. TENG TOOK THE USUAL SWIPES AT THE SOVIET UNION AND STRESSED THE INEVITABILITY OF WARFARE BREAKING OUT BETWEEN THE SUPERPOWERS. HE APPARENTLY DID NOT ADDRESS THE CHINESE PERCEPTION OF THE SOVIET THREAT TO CHINA AND HE DID NOT VOLUNTEER ANY INFORMATION ON THE MAY 9 BORDER CONFLICT ALONG THE USSURI. DELEGATION MEMBERS DID NOT PRESS QUESTIONING ON THIS POINT SINCE THEY HAD BEEN ADVISED BEFOREHAND THAT NCNA COVERAGE IN PEOPLE'S DAILY WAS COMPLETE AND AUTHORITATIVE. (NCNA IS THE HOST ORGANIZATION FOR THE DELEGATION.)

7. TENG ON THE SENKAKUS/TIAO YU INCIDENT. DEG SAID NOTHING IN HIS OPENING MONOLOGUE ABOUT THE PRC-JAPANESE

DISPUTE OVER THE SNENKAKUS. UNDER QUESTIONING TENG MERELY
AFFIRMED THAT THE PRC REGARDS THE ISLANDS (TIAO YU ISLANDS
TO THE CHINESE) AS ITS SOVEREIGN TERRITORY.

8.

8. AMERICAN JOURNALISTS IN PEKING. NEITHER TENG NOR NCNA
OFFICIALS GAVE THE DELEGATION ANY ENCOURAGEMENT THAT AMERICAN
JOURNALISTS MIGHT BE ACCREDITED IN PEKING OR THE PRC
PRIOR TO US-PRC NORMALIZATION.

9. ATMOSPHERICS. TENG CAME ACROSS TO DELEGATION MEMBERS
AS BOUNCY AND JOCKULAR, APPEARING MUCH YOUNGER THAN HIS
74 YEARS.

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10. THE DELEGATION WILL DEPART PEKING FOR SHANGHAI ON
SUNDAY, MAY 21. FROM THERE IT WILL FLY TO CHUNGKING,
SPEND A COUPLE OF DAYS THERE, AND TAKE THE YANGTZE GORGE
BOAT TRIP TO WUHAN.

DEAN

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